

## **2008 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature**

### **Sine Die**

The 2008 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature has concluded. Both houses adjourned the session just prior to midnight on May 10. The Senate failed to pass the Education Trust Fund Budget. The Senate spent the entire last day debating the Education Budget and did not consider any other legislation. As a result of the Senate's filibuster, as well as the delaying tactics in the House, many high profile bills died.

### **Special Session**

The failure of the Education Trust Fund Budget will require a special legislative session prior to October 1. There is no word yet on when a special session will be called. Governor Riley indicated that he would like to reach a consensus among various parties before calling a session to address the budget or other issues. He did express a sense of urgency so it could be sooner rather than later.

A special session can be called by the Governor at any time and include any issue he chooses to put on the agenda. Any issue not in the governor's call requires a two-thirds majority to pass. A special session can last up to 12 legislative days within 30 calendar days.

### **The Budgets**

Governor Riley returned the \$2 Billion Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund Budget just before 11:55 p.m. with a line-item veto. By returning the bill so late he prevented the Legislature from re-passing the bill over his objections, and so his line-item veto is sustained. Riley vetoed Section 4 of the General Fund Budget that detailed how funds would be apportioned should revenues fall short of what is appropriated. The language of Section 4 sought to protect certain agencies, such as Medicaid, from budget cuts. Riley's amendment appears to have the effect of having proration fall equally across all agencies, including Medicaid, if revenue is short of full funding.